

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

GODSPEED TO OUR TROOPS IN THE BALKANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join with my colleague the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON). Both of us had the privilege of accompanying Secretary of Defense Cohen into the theater. All of us walked away, one, awestruck by the commitment and spirit of the young men and women who represent us there. Their technical ability, their proficiency is something that is awe-inspiring, as well as their commitment.

Additionally, I think for me and others on the trip the commitment of the other NATO parties was something that struck us, and as we all pray and hope for a quick end to this conflict and the safety and security of our men and women that are in the field, I join with my colleague from Missouri and many others wishing them Godspeed.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I do want to take this first opportunity back from the NCAA for a little bit of bragging rights, and when I was there in Europe I met some other folks from Connecticut, some from my own district, and one of the great things about our State is that our UCONN basketball teams, men and women but this year it is the men's turn, are really the center of attention from an athletic perspective. Our team beat the Duke Blue Devils 77 to 74 for that championship, and with this win UCONN became the first school in New England to win this NCAA since 1947.

It was a great team. They made an incredible effort on that day and through the whole season. What is clear to all of us is that each and every one of the players put their heart and soul and every bit of effort in it, and I congratulate each one of them.

But I want to take a moment in particular for Jim Calhoun and his entire coaching staff. Coach Calhoun, who is a great coach and a great human being, someone that is involved in the community to help good causes, has been at UCONN since 1986 and has built an incredibly impressive record. In 13 seasons his record is 304 wins, 120 losses. Coach Calhoun has taken UCONN basketball from the backwaters to the front edge of competition, and he has succeeded time and time again in the Big East, in the championships, and finally this year in the NCAA.

For all my constituents, those like myself who are graduates of the University of Connecticut and every citizen in our State, this was a truly exciting moment and one that we will revel in for some time.

Congratulations, UCONN, the team, the president and all the folks back at Storrs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Connecticut men's basketball team for winning the 1999 NCAA Division I National Championship over Duke University. UCONN's 77-74 victory over the Blue Devils culminated years of hard work, dedication and perseverance on the part of the players, coaches and the entire University community. The residents of my state also deserve some of the credit for being among the most loyal, supportive fans in the nation.

The Huskies' "road to the Final Four" has been long, but illustrious. UCONN has been in the NCAA tournament twenty times in school history. Its teams have played in seven "Sweet Sixteen" and four "Elite Eight" games in the 1990s alone. The path to this year's Final Four appearance—the first in school history—included victories over Texas-San Antonio, New Mexico, Iowa and Gonzaga. UCONN bested Ohio State to advance to the championship game. UCONN's win over Duke produced the school's first NCAA Division I men's basketball National Championship and marked the first time since 1947 that a school from New England has won the title.

It goes without saying that basketball is a team sport. This UCONN team is the embodiment of that statement. Game in and game out, this group of extraordinary young men worked together as a unit to achieve their common goal. Every player made a contribution which helped the team win the Big East regular season and tournament championships, advance through the tournament to the Final Four and, ultimately, win the 1999 National Championship.

During the tournament every player made contributions that helped the team to move ever closer to its ultimate goal. Kevin Freeman provided offensive spark throughout the tournament especially in the game against Ohio State and helped to contain national player of the year Elton Brand in the championship game. Ricky Moore, who many people, including this member, believe is the best defensive player in college basketball, demonstrated over and over again why he has earned this title. He played opposite star guards throughout the tournament and made crucial plays against Duke's Trajan Langdon in the final seconds of the championship game which sealed the victory for UCONN. Jake Voskuhl filled the lane throughout the tournament and in the final game played a crucial role in containing Elton Brand. And what more can be said about the contributions of Richard Hamilton and Khalid El-Amin? Hamilton, who was named tournament MVP, scored an average of 24 points in six tournament games capping off the season with a 27 point performance in the final game. El-Amin, the team's floor leader, directed the offense, motivated his teammates and made crucial shots down the stretch in the victories against Ohio State and Duke. Others, including Edmund Saunders, Rashamel Jones and Souleymane Wane, played critical minutes in each game contributing to the team's success.

Coach Jim Calhoun and his assistants—Dave Leitao, Karl Hobbs and Tom Moore—have done a masterful job. Over the past thirteen seasons, Coach Calhoun has built a program that has dominated the Big East, one of the most competitive conferences in NCAA

basketball, winning the regular season championship six times and the tournament championship four times. After only two seasons at UCONN, Coach Calhoun led the Huskies to the 1988 National Invitation Tournament championship. His teams have advanced to at least the round of sixteen in the NCAA tournament seven times this decade. Coach Calhoun can be very intense, but he is committed to his players more than anything else.

In Connecticut, UCONN basketball is the state past-time. Every game is sold out and families across the state gather to watch every game on TV or listen on the radio. The Huskies have such phenomenal support because the team has a special relationship, a dedication to one another which is infectious. This commitment produced an extraordinary season.

Mr. Speaker, as a UCONN graduate and the representative of Storrs, I am especially proud of the team's accomplishment. The team achieved its objective due to the extraordinary chemistry between its members, skilled coaching and incredible support from its fans. Once again, congratulations on a great season and enjoy the title—1999 National Champion.

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U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN KOSOVO: WHY THIS HUMANITARIAN CRISIS?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. UPTON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to discuss one of the primary reasons I introduced legislation that will prohibit the use of appropriated funds to the Department of Defense from being used for the deployment of U.S. ground troops in Kosovo unless deployment is specifically approved by Congress and authorized by law.

There are many reasons why Members of Congress should support the bill. Issues that need to be discussed include the authority of Congress to declare war, why this region is or is not vital to our national security interests, and whether the human and monetary cost of American involvement in this fight is worth risking American lives.

The President has argued that for humanitarian reasons American intervention is necessary. Why is it more important for us to be involved militarily in Yugoslavia, a country certainly of no real national security threat to the United States, when there are human rights violations occurring in China, a nation that is perhaps our biggest security threat in the new world order?

While we rightly condemn Yugoslav President Milosevic for driving ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, we continue to maintain a strategic partnership, sell highly sensitive satellite information, provide normal trade relationship status to China, a nation that has suppressed and displaced over 128,000 Tibetans and commits some of the most horrific human rights abuses in the